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REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were previously presented. Claims 10-65 were previously canceled. Claims 66-67 are currently amended. Claims 68-71 are original. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 66-71 are pending examination.

Elections/Restrictions

The Applicant does not make an election in this Amendment and has not made any elections in prior Amendments.

Objection of Claims 67 and 68

Claim 67 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 USC §101

Claims 1-9, 66, 69-71 are rejected under 35 USC §101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-9 of US Patent 6,670,071 B2 (the cited claims). MPEP §804.02 (I) provides that a rejection for the statutory type of double patenting is overcome when the claims are not coextensive.

Independent claim 1 of US Patent 6,670,071 B2 specifies that the "mandrel (is) for mechanically reinforcing said pin." However, claims 1-9, 66, 69-71 of this application have no such requirement and accordingly have a different scope than the cited claims. As a result, the cited claims are "not coextensive in scope." Since the cited claims are not coextensive in scope, the cited claims do not support a rejection for "same invention" type double patenting.

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CONCLUSION

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone or e-mail the undersigned with any questions.



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